approach roads. Health, education and economic advancement should be brought within the purview of the committee. Night-schools should be started, health lectures arranged and cottage industries encouraged. A certain proportion of the menial posts in the taluk should be reserved for the members of the depressed classes. Qualified men among them should be appointed as teachers. The Elevation Committee meetings held in the Taluk Office could profitably be held in rotation in the villages. An allotment of at least Rs. 2,000 should be sanctioned for each taluk and placed at the disposal of the Elevation Committee for carrying out its programme of work, so as to avoid delay in getting works sanctioned. Registrable tank-beds should be reserved for house-sites for the depressed classes. Co-operative organisations should be instituted in each *cheri* in order to encourage thrift, co-operation and self-help among the people. Propaganda should be done for the dissemination of knowledge in the elementary principles of health, sanitation, personal hygiene, agriculture and co-operation.

The member lastly urged the need for appointing a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes and also suggested that the designation "Protector" should be altered into "Elevator."

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Thomas, the suggested road from Colachel to Tengapattanam is part of the Cape—Trivandrum coast road. That will be taken up as finances improve.

The idea of strengthening bunds of channels to make them fit for cart traffic is a good one; but it involves land acquisition, which means money. If you would point out specific bunds which may be so strengthened without heavy expenditure they would be considered. If you would give instances where the allotment is not being spent in removing silt in channels, they would be enquired into.

You made mention of some ryots' roads. Has any application been made under the rules?

MEMBER: It has been made some years ago.

DEWAN: That will be enquired into.

Your suggestion for a road to Talakulam, and your other suggestions, with regard to improving the work of the Sambavar Elevation Committee and extending its scope so as to help the other depressed classes, will receive consideration.

The question of a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes has been ordered to lie over for financial reasons.

75. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk

MR. V. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod taluk*) said that Travancore was an agricultural country, and rice the staple article of food of the people. But paddy and rice to the value of two and a half crores of rupees were imported into the State annually. This showed the insufficiency of the food supply in the State. The supply could be made sufficient by extending the arable area, by the provision of

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additional irrigational facilities and by increasing the productive capacity of the soil by means of scientific and modern methods of cultivation. Agricultural schools were necessary to impart instruction to the ryots in scientific methods of cultivation. While there were 3,600 schools to impart literary education, there were only three agricultural schools in the State and all the three schools were in North Travancore. An agricultural school should be opened in South Travancore, preferably at Kuzhittura, at a very early date.

A large percentage of the revenue should be set apart for irrigation purposes. Of the total revenue of Rs. 230 lakhs, only a sum of one and a half lakhs of rupees was spent on minor irrigation, while large amounts were spent in the capital city for increasing its amenities. So far as irrigational facilities were concerned, Vilavankod taluk deserved special consideration at the hands of the Government. The Kodayar river running through the taluk, was diverted in order to irrigate the neighbouring taluk in the south. The taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattin kara were originally included under the commanded area of the Kodayar Project; it was also proposed to irrigate the taluks by the opening of the Right Bank channel. But due to the influence of the landed proprietors of Nanjinad, the Government dropped the work on the Right Bank channel and constructed the Tovala channel. The ryots of the taluk experienced very great hardship in the matter of irrigation. In order to reddress their grievances, the representatives of the taluk had been, for many years past, urging on the attention of the Government the importance of the Chittar scheme to supplement the Right Bank channel. Early sanction should be accorded for the investigation of that scheme as well as for the opening of the Valvachagoshtam *kal*, which was an equally important and useful work to the ryots of the major part of the taluk. All the minor and petty tanks in the taluk should also be improved, and the system of levying half contribution from the ryots for the improvement of tanks should be stopped. Local irrigation boards should be constituted and remission of tax granted for damage caused by floods. The recommendations of the Irrigation Committee should be put into practice at an early date, as they would solve many of the important problems of the ryots.

An Ayurvedic hospital should be opened at Kuzhittura and an allopathic dispensary at Pattanam. The Government did not pay any heed to the repeated representations of the people for opening an allopathic hospital at Kuzhittura, on the ground that there was a Mission hospital at Martandam. But the Mission authorities did not comply with the request of the people to appoint a qualified medical officer in the hospital.

Epidemics were common in the Vilavankod taluk. The Epidemiological staff for the taluk was sanctioned as a result of the formidable nature of the recent outbreak of cholera in South Travancore. The staff should be made permanent and they should be provided

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with medicines for dispensing whenever necessary. As it was, the staff was merely entrusted with the duty of collecting statistics.

There was great scarcity of drinking water in the taluk. Public wells should be sunk in Tirumala, Palliadi, Kizhkulam, Martandam, Kaliyikkavila, Pirakod and Meppuram. Drinking water should be supplied free at least in the important markets of the taluk.

As regards means of communication, the member urged the need for opening a beach road from Colachel to Kollenkod, *via* Pattanam and a road from Kaliyikkavila to Andukod *via* Vanniyur. He also represented about the need for improving the trace from Kadayalummood to Pechipara.

The Kuzhittura-Azhachola road and the Chennittottam road were usually submerged under water during floods, causing great inconvenience to the people and obstructing both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. These roads should be raised above flood level. Similarly, the Munchira lane from Mankad to Parthivapuram should be raised, as the same was under water during the major part of the year.

The A. V. M. canal, the chief means of water communication connecting South Travancore with North Travancore, should be restored and improved. This would greatly facilitate the commercial development of the State, inasmuch as transport of goods by water was cheaper than transport by land.

The member finally requested that the *Ashtami* festival day at Tirumala in the month of Vrischikam and the *Bharani* festival day at Kollenkod in the month of Meenam should be declared as local holidays for the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: When Government decide to open more agricultural schools, Mr. Narayana Pillai, the claims of your taluk will be considered.

The report of the Minor Irrigation Committee is under consideration, and I trust that orders would be passed soon. They have, I hope dealt with your suggestions for the improvement of irrigation and the question of half-contribution.

The establishment of an Ayurveda hospital must wait until finances improve.

The Public Health Department will or will not be made permanent some time; and then the question of making permanent the epidemiological work and vital statistics work in the taluk will also be considered.

The providing of drinking water in markets and the sinking of wells are being done on recommendations by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Land Revenue Commissioner when funds are available and when the necessity has been pointed out.

It is recognised that a road from Colachel to Kollenkod is necessary; but the actual construction can be taken up only when funds are available.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The other two roads you mentioned, from Kaliyikkavila to Andukod and from Kadayalummood to Pechipara will be referred to the Road Board.

The estimate for raising the Kuzhittura-Azhachola road above flood level is under preparation. And the question of raising the Kuzhittura-Chennittottam road will be investigated; but, it will be very costly, and it is not so urgent as the other one.

It is reported that the work on the lane from Mankad to Parthivapuram has practically been completed.

The improvement and restoration of the A. V. M. canal will be very costly and will involve lakhs of rupees. And it may not be necessary if the railway line is extended from Trivandrum to Nagercoil.

The declaration of the two festival days as holidays is a matter that has been brought to the notice of Government more than once and Government have been consistently refusing it. It is wrong to have too many holidays.

76. Some needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. M. SULTAN MOIDEEN (*Nominated*) said that the most important point he had to urge was about the need for splitting up of the Kalkulam cum Vilavankod constituency of the Legislative Council. The constituency was the biggest and most cumbersome of all the constituencies in the State. In point of area, population, the number of electors and the number of polling stations, there was no other constituency to equal it. The necessity for splitting it had been keenly felt both by the voters and by the candidates and it had been urged on the attention of the Government by representatives both of the Kalkulam and Vilavankod taluks. Comparing the constituency with the neighbouring constituency *viz.*, Agastisvaram, the member pointed out that the area of the former was four times that of the latter, while the area of Vilavankod taluk alone was one and a half times that of Agastisvaram. In population as well as in the number of voters the two constitutencies showed a marked difference. Vilavankod, if taken alone, was larger in extent and bigger in population than many of the constituencies in North Travancore. The member also pointed out in this connection that as the number of voters in the Kalkulam taluk was larger than that in the Vilavankod taluk, the chances of success were greater for a Kalkulam candidate, than for any other, as could be seen from the results of the last four elections. In the circumstances, the member requested that the constituency might be split up and Vilavankod, with some *pakuthies* of Kalkulam, if found necessary, might be made a separate constituency.

The opening of a dispensary at Tengapattanam was another important need of the taluk. This had been repeatedly urged on the attention of the Government both by representations made in the Assembly and by petitions and personal requests to the officers concerned. Every time an epidemic broke out in South Travancore, it did great havoc in the

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